

TWO ILLECEBRACEAE FROM THE CAPE
PENINSULA

By R. S. ADAMSON.

HERNIARIA.

A single species of this genus has been found on the Cape Peninsula. This is a rather large plant for the genus with a prostrate somewhat woody stem with long internodes. The leaves are a yellowish green and both leaves and flowers are covered with short hairs. The flowers have long styles, as long as the ovary, at the flowering stage, with a small minutely bifid stigma at the top.

This plant has been identified with *H. hirsuta* L. which is the only species recorded for South Africa in Flora Capensis (I. 48. 1859 : V.i. 400. 1910.) but the identification is certainly not correct. At least two species of this genus have been found in the country neither of which agrees with *H. hirsuta*. The prostrate woody plant seems confined to sand near the coast or at low altitudes on the Peninsula and adjacent parts of the south west corner of the country. From several inland stations another species has been recorded which is quite different. This latter species is identical with or very closely allied to *H. cinerea* DC. This has not been found on the Cape Peninsula.

The prostrate sand-loving plant appears to be indigenous. It occurs in vegetation that seems quite untouched and where there are certainly no traces of the presence of aliens. It is an easily recognised plant and was collected by several of the older collectors, e.g. Pappe, Harvey, Ecklon and Zeyher. In herbaria some of the older specimens are labelled "*H. capensis*." This species was created by Bartling (Linnaea VII. 624. 1832) and based on specimens collected by Zeyher at Caledon Baths. The short description says :—" *herbacea tenuissime pubescens ramis adscendentibus* " which does not seem at all applicable to a plant of which the most obvious characters are the woody stem and completely prostrate habit. It would be more applicable to the inland plant, an identification which is supported from the station of the type gathering. Bartling's species was taken from the earlier *H. incana* var. *capensis* cf Persoon (Syn. Pl. I. 292. 1805) the short description of which might apply to this plant. The style character however completely excludes association

with *H. incana*. The plant appears to be an undescribed one and is named *H. arenicola* on account of its very characteristic habitat.

H. arenicola Adamson, spec. nov.

Perennis, prostrata, luteo-viridis. Caulis 20—50 cm., teres, subglabrous, purpureus, internodiis longis foliis multo longioribus, pilis brevibus hirsutus. Folia alterna, 4—5 × 2 mm., sessilia, ovata, cuneata, apice acuta vel subobtusata, pilis brevibus tecta, stipulis membranaceis albis acutis, marginibus ciliatis, foliis multo brevioribus. Flores axillares, 3—5 in ramis lateralibus brevibus aggregatae. Tepala pilis brevibus hirsuta sine pilis longis vel hispidis. Stylus erectus ovarium subaequans, apice minute bifidus.

Sand at low altitudes, especially dune hollows near the coast. Cape Peninsula and south west coasts. Fl. Oct.—Dec. Type in Bolus Herbarium.

Without precise locality:—Zeyher 4863; Harvey 503; Cape: Muizenberg, Adamson 1242 (type); Schlechter 1488; Ecklon 204; Levyns. Fish Hoek, Wolley-Dod 3590. Chapmans Bay, Salter 7092. Karbonkelberg, Levyns. Green Point, Zeyher. Red Hill, Salter 310/12. "Cape Dunes," Pappé. Bredasdorp: Cape Agulhas, Pillans 8178.

PARONYCHIA.

P. brasiliana DC. has recently been gathered in the vicinity of Cape Town. The plant is an alien but appears to be spreading and has become thoroughly established in some places. It has maintained itself for at least five years on the track of the race course at Kenilworth where its area is increasing. As the plant has not been previously recorded for the Cape a brief note of the distinguishing characters may be given. Stems rather wiry procumbent, 8—15 cm. Leaves opposite, elliptical, very shortly petiolate. Stipules large, about as long as the short internodes, white membranous, ending in a white fringe. Flowers axillary. Perianth glabrous, segments almost free, hooded, with a stiff bristle at the tip. Fl. June—Oct.

Kenilworth (Race Course track) Adamson 1201, 1669, Claremont, (roadside) Adamson 1688. Newlands (waste ground) Salter 7069. Green Point Common Adamson 1911.